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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT
ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Second periodic reports submitted by States parties under articles 16
and 17 of the Covenant in accordance with the programme established
by Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/4

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit reports on the measures they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized therein. All reports are to be submitted to the Secretary-General, who transmits copies to the Economic and Social Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant. The Secretary-General also transmits to the specialized agencies copies of the reports, or any relevant parts thereof, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of those specialized agencies, in so far as the reports relate to any matters falling within the competence of the agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments.

2. Under article 17 of the Covenant, the States parties to the Covenant furnish their reports in accordance with a programme established by the Economic and Social Council. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the Covenant. Where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by a State party to the Covenant, it is not necessary to reproduce that information; instead a precise reference to the information furnished may be given.

3. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Council resolution 1985/17, is entrusted by the Council with the task of monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In accordance with the methods of work established in Council resolution 1979/43 and in subsequent decisions and resolutions, the Committee will consider the reports submitted by States parties in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. The Committee will submit to the Council a report on its activities, including a summary of its consideration of the reports submitted by States parties, and will make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of those reports and of the reports submitted by the specialized agencies, with a view to assisting the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant.
4. The representatives of reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee at which their reports are examined, to make statements on the reports submitted by those States and to answer questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.
5. As provided for under article 17 of the Covenant, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988/4 of 24 May 1988, decided to revise its earlier programme of reporting by States parties established in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 2 May 1976, and endorsed the recommendation made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its second session (E/1988/14, para. 351) that States parties be requested to submit a single initial report within two years of the entry into force of the Covenant for the State party concerned, and thereafter periodic reports at five-year intervals.
6. In a note verbale dated 30 September 1988, the Secretary-General informed the States parties to the Covenant of this decision.
7. Subsequently, at its third session, the Committee discussed the temporary arrangements that would be required in order to ensure a smooth transition from the old to the new periodicity arrangements with respect to the reporting obligations of each State party to the Covenant. The Committee agreed to request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, to draw up a revised schedule for reporting by States parties in accordance with the new periodicity arrangements, taking into account a number of considerations agreed upon by the Committee (see E/1989/22, para. 337).
8. As requested by the Committee at its third session, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, prepared a revised schedule for reporting by States parties in accordance with the new periodicity arrangements. The revised schedule was considered and approved by the Committee at its fourth session, held at Geneva from 15 January to 2 February 1990 (see E/1990/23, annex VI).
9. In accordance with the revised schedule for reporting approved by the Committee at its fourth session, the second periodic reports on articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant will be due, within the next five-year period (1990-1994), from 17 States parties on the following dates:

<u>States parties</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Madagascar	30 June 1990
Syrian Arab Republic	30 June 1990
Barbados	30 June 1991
India	30 June 1991
Jordan	30 June 1991
Portugal	30 June 1991
Venezuela	30 June 1991
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	30 June 1992
France	30 June 1992
Japan	30 June 1992
Mexico	30 June 1992
Zaire	30 June 1992
Luxembourg	30 June 1993
Democratic Yemen	30 June 1993
Costa Rica	30 June 1993
Trinidad and Tobago	30 June 1993
Dominican Republic	30 June 1994

10. As at 1 March 1990, a second periodic report on articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant, submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988/4, was received from the Syrian Arab Republic. The second periodic reports submitted by States parties listed in paragraph 9 above will be issued as addenda to the present document.
